

## The Interchurch World Movement Of North America

**T**HERE has been laid before the various mission boards, executive commissions and officials of the evangelical communions of North America a plan for united study and united effort to assure the support of the mission work of those communions at home and abroad. This plan will be submitted to the national bodies of the churches at their meetings during the spring and fall of 1919.

**T**HE following interdenominational organizations have already considered the plan and have unanimously approved it:

Foreign Missions Conference of North America, representing the foreign mission boards of the United States and Canada.

Home Missions Council, composed of representatives of the home mission boards of the United States and Canada.

Council of Church Boards of Education, representing the college and religious education agencies of the leading communions.

Sunday School Council, representing the Sunday-school interests of all communions.

Laymen's Missionary Movement.

Missionary Education Movement.

Federation of Women's Boards of Foreign Missions, composed of representatives of foreign mission agencies conducted by women.

Council of Women for Home Missions, composed of representatives of home mission boards conducted by women.

World's Sunday School Association.

International Sunday School Association.

Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

United Missionary and Stewardship Committee of the Reformed Church in the United States.

In addition, twenty-five individual mission boards have given their approval to the plan and join in commending it to their national or general organizations.

The main features of the plan are four in number:

1. A United Study of the World Field. County by county in this country and mission by mission in foreign lands, it is proposed that the exact facts be discovered to the end that the needs of each community and region may be appraised and the whole task of the whole church put in clear light and due proportion.

2. A United Budget. On the basis of the world survey it is proposed that a single joint budget be made, every item of which shall approve itself to the judgment of the several mission boards, so far as it relates to the work of each board, and have the approval of a strong interdenominational committee aided by experts in the various fields covered, this committee to review and harmonize the details. While this budget will be for a single year, it will take account of the needs of a five year period.

3. A United Appeal. During a given number of days at some point in 1920 it is proposed that the 50,000,000 people constituting the Protestant constituency of America be asked, community by community, to underwrite the united budget for the year ahead, payment of pledges to be made week by week through customary church channels. There will be a united treasury to care for undesignated gifts.

4. A United Program of Work. It is proposed that this plan shall carry the steadily growing cooperation of recent years in the mission field on to the point of the most complete coordination which the conditions of our separate organizations permit. Funds secured will be expended with detailed regard to the requirements of fraternal cooperation.

**I**T is proposed that the whole broad field of missions be covered, including home and foreign missions in all their branches, Christian education in all its aspects and Sunday-school interests of every type. Interdenominational agencies of the types above indicated are included to the end that there may be close cooperation between all forces.

In order that the earliest possible beginning may be made upon the exacting task involved in these proposals, a preliminary organization has been effected by the agencies above named, and beginnings made in blocking out needful plans. All directors and officials of mission boards have been asked to cooperate and have generously responded. The General Committee of one hundred and fifty persons from different parts of the nation will hold its second meeting at Cleveland, May 2, for review of the various factors of the undertaking.

As will be seen, it is not possible at this stage to speak authoritatively concerning details of the plan. Much thought and conference, however, have been given to the money questions involved in organization, survey, publicity, budget-making, canvass, method of payment, relation to special denominational plans now in progress, etc. It is the Committee's conviction that a practical and equitable solution can be found for each problem involved.

Many have asked what the total of the anticipated united budget will be. No answer is now possible. Not even an estimate can be made. Only when the world survey is completed, with its painstaking examination of every section of the field and its balancing of obligations, can a figure be named.

**P**ARTICULAR interest is also felt in the question whether the proposed union of effort is to be for a single year or for a series of years. Manifestly this will be for the organizations concerned to answer in the light of experience. We express our hope that this will prove the first of a long series of years of such unified effort. The central and impelling motive of the whole proposal is that we shall so join our forces as to put the enthusiasm, the intelligence and the devotion of American Protestantism solidly behind the world task in which we have thus far fallen so far short of our duty. Only thus can we secure adequate enlistment of our young men and women in the heroic sacrifices of Christian leadership. Only thus can we secure adequate funds for such a program as is demanded by fidelity to Christ and his kingdom.

The plan is submitted to the evangelical denominations of America with the urgent request that it be the theme of careful thought and believing prayer

The following constitutes the Executive Committee to act ad interim for the General Committee:

John R. Mott,  
Chairman

William H. Foulkes,  
Vice-Chairman

William B. Millar,  
Recording Secretary

S. Earl Taylor,  
Executive Secretary

F. W. Ayer

Stephen Baker

Mrs. F. S. Bennett

A. E. Cory

Dwight H. Day

George M. Fowles

Mrs. W. H. Farmer

Fred P. Haggard

Hubert C. Herring

Margaret E. Hodge

Robert L. Kelly

Charles H. Pratt

Fred B. Smith

James M. Speers

David W. Teachout

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See also Leaflet No. 4, "Its Origin, Purposes and Plans" and Leaflet No. 8, "Its Organization with Suggestions for Development and Methods of Operation."

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